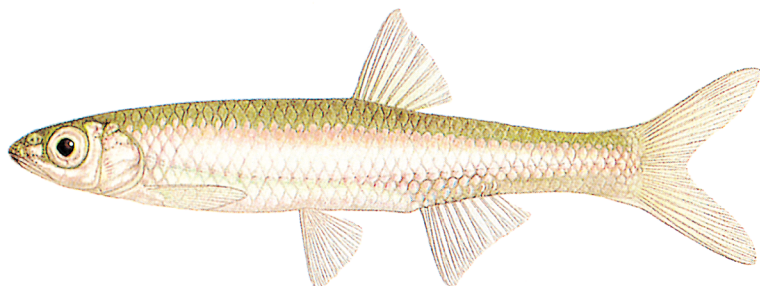


Emerald shiner

Notropis atherinoides



Similar Species: Many other minnows and some suckers

Identification: Pale and silvery with faint lateral band, body slender.

The emerald shiner is the most abundant minnow in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. It is common in large streams and Missouri River system reservoirs in South Dakota where it serves as an important prey fish. Large emerald shiners feed on insects and small crustaceans, and smaller ones feed on algae. Spawning occurs at night just below the surface in shallow water over sand or firm mud. In South Dakota, the emerald shiner typically reaches 2 1/2 inches by the end of its first year of life and 3 1/2 inches at the end of its second year.

